

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 EURE-00 /102 W

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P R 301625Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9262

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 3048

EO 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PINT, PL

SUBJECT: SZLACHCIC NAMED DEPUTY PREMIER

REF: WARSAW A-166 OF MAY 23

1. AS INDICATED IN OUR AIRGRAM A-166N WHICH MAY NOT YET HAVE REACHED MOST ADDRESSEES, FOR SEVERAL WEEKS REPORTS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING IN WARSAW THAT PARTY SECRETARY AND POLITBIURO MEMBER FRANCISZEK SZLACHCIC HAD FALLEN FROM GRACE AND WOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE SECRETARIAT AND POLITBIURO. A WEEK AGOS WE WERE TOLD BY A NORMALLY WELL-INFORMED JOURNALISTIC SOURCE THAT SZLACHCIC WOULD BE "KICKED UPSTAIRS" BY BEING NAMED A VICE PREMIER AND MINISTER OF A NEW SUPER-MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION WITH
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FOREIGN COUNTRIES. ON MAY 29 SZLACHCIC WAS NAMED A DEPUTY

PREMIER BY PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ AND THE NOMINATION WAS DULY APPROVED BY THE SEJM. AT THE SAME TIME, HE WAS REMOVED FROM MEMBERSHIP ON THE COUNCIL OF STATE. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THE NEW SUPER-MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OR INDICATION OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES SZLACHCIC WOULD HAVE AS ONE OF SEVEN DEPUTY PREMIERS.

2. THERE WAS NO INDICATION IN THE BRIEF PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF SZLACHCIC'S APPOINTMENT THAT HE HAS BEEN FORMALLY REMOVED FROM THE SECRETARIAT OR POLITBIURO. REMOVAL FOR THE FORMER AT AN EARLY DATE IS VIRTUALLY A FOREGONE CONCLUSION SINCE WE KNOW OF NO CASE OF A VICE PREMIER SERVING SIMULTANEOUSLY AS A PARTY SECRETARY. AS FOR THE POLITBIURO, TWO OTHER VICE PREMIERS, JAGIELSKI AND TEJCHMA, ARE AT PRESENT POLITBIURO MEMBERS. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE UNANIMITY OF INFORMED OPINION IN POLAND ABOUT SZLACHCIC'S TOTAL POLITICAL ECLIPSE, WE THINK IT LIKELY THAT HE WILL ALSO BE REMOVED FROM THE POLITBIURO SOON.

3. IN TERSE, ALMOST ABRUPT MANNER IN WHICH JAROSZEWICZ PROPOSED THE SZLACHCIC APPOINTMENT TO THE SEJM, WITHOUT ONE WORD ABOUT HIS QUALIFICATION FOR A HIGH GOVERNMENT POSITION, PAST SERVICE TO PEOPLE'S POLAND, OR INDICATION OF SPECIFIC FUTURE RESPONSIBILITIES, IS FURTHER EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE PREVAILING VIEW THAT SZLACHCIC'S GOVERNMENTAL APPOINTMENT CAN NOT BE VIEWED AS A PROMOTION.

4. DURING 1973, SZLACHCIC CLEARLY APPEARED TO BE A SWIFTLY RISING STAR APPARENT TO GIEREK, HIS IMAGE AS SOMETHING OF A REASONABLE NATIONALIST WITH INTELLECTUAL INTERESTS AND GREAT POTENTIAL APPEARED TO RECEIVING CAREFUL GROOMING. HIS DEMOTION WILL COME AS A SHOCK TO SOME, PARTICULARLY TO INTELLECTUALS AND ACADEMICS, WHO PROFESS TO SEE THIS SIDE OF HIM. OTHERS VIEW HIM AS A CAREER POLICY OFFICIAL, WHO HAS SERVED THE STATE WELL IN VARIOUS PERIODS OF REPRESSION, AND WILL NOT MOURN HIS PASSING. THE MAIN PROBLEM FOR MOST, AND A SOURCE OF CONCERN FOR MANY, WILL BE IN TRYING TO PUZZLE OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO SZLACHCIC ON THE WAY TO THE TOP AND WHAT IT PORTENDS.

5. VARIOUS EXPLANATIONS FOR SZLACHCIC'S DEMOTION HAVE BEEN
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ADVANCED. SOME SOURCES HERE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT HE HAD A FALLING-OUT WITH GIEREK, AND ONE JOURNALIST HAS SAID THAT SZLACHCIC COMMITTED AN ACT OF DISLOYALTY TOWARDS ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE GIEREK LEADERSHIP GROUP. OTHERS HAVE SUGGESTED A SHARP FUED BETWEEN SZLACHCIC AND JAROSZEWICZ. JAROSZEWICZ IS SAID TO HAVE BECOME IRKED AT THE CONSTANT TALK OF SZLACHCIC'S BEING NUMBER TWO, A POSITION JAROSZEWICZ FELT WAS RESERVED FOR HIMSELF. AND STILL OTHERS HAVE SUGGESTED

THAT SZLACHCIC ADVOCATED A NATIONALIST TURN FOR POLAND IN ITS
RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, ALONG ROMANIAN LINES, BUT WITH GREAT
ER
SUBTLETY.

6. PARTY SECRETARY AND POLITBIURO MEMBER JAN SZYDLAK, AN ABLE, TOUGH,
HARD-DRIVING, OPPORTUNISTIC HARD-LINER, APPEARS TO HAVE MOVED
INTO THE VACUUM LEFT BY SZLACHCIC IN THE PARTY HIERARCHY.
LACKING THE PERSONAL CHARM AND CHARISMA WHICH SZLACHCIC
APPEARED TO POSSESS, SZYDLAK REPRESENTS THE CAUTIONS INTERESTS
OF THE SEASONED PARTY BUREAUCRACY. HE HAS PARTY RESPONSIBILITY
FOR IDEOLOGY AND ECONOMIC POLICY. HIS ASCENDANCY AND SZLACHCIC'S
DEMISE COULD SIGNAL A MORE CONSERVATIVE APPROACH ON IDEOLOGICAL
AND ECONOMIC POLICY AND AN EVEN MORE CAREFUL ALIGNMENT WITH THE
SOVIET
UNION ON FOREIGN POLICY.
DAVIES

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